

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 283143
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 283143

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS/CHEROKEE, FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV FROM
CAIRO NOV 26:

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 19564

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

CHEROKEE

REF: STATE 283132

1. MY EFFORTS CONTACT SADAT DIRECTLY EARLY THIS MORNING
UNSUCCESSFUL. FIRST THERE WAS NO ANSWER AND
SUBSEQUENTLY ONE OF HIS STAFF AIDES SAID THE PRESIDENT
WAS STILL SLEEPING AND COULD NOT BE WAKENED. (SADAT
NORMALLY DOES NOT GET UP UNTIL 1000.)

2. MANAGED, HOWEVER, TO GET IN TOUCH WITH VP MUBARAK AT 0800
AND CONVEYED REF MESSAGE. I STRESSED PRESIDENT CARTER'S
STRONG VIEW ON NEED FOR CAREFUL PREPARATIONS AND PRIVATE
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER PARTIES TO AVOID PROPOSAL

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BEING REJECTED. WE WOULD BE GLAD HELP PREPARE FOR
SUCH A PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AND CONSULT WITH OTHER
PARTIES ABOUT IT. THIS WILL BE DEFINITION TAKE
A LITTLE TIME, HENCE PRESIDENT CARTER ASKS THAT
PRESIDENT SADAT DELAY HIS PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT OF
SUCH A CONFERENCE. MUBARAK'S REACTION WAS NEGATIVE.
HE THOUGHT SADAT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DO THIS, BUT

UNDERTOOK TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM AND CONVEY OUR MESSAGE. TO BE SURE HE GOT IT STRAIGHT, I WENT OVER IT AGAIN.

3. MUBARAK CALLED BACK FIVE MINUTES AGO (0915) TO SAY HE HAD WAKENED SADAT AND GIVEN HIM OUR MESSAGE. SADAT ASKED HIM TO TELL US THAT IT WOULD BE "VERY DIFFICUT" TO DELAY NOW. THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE ARE EXPECTING SOME BOLD, NEW INITIATIVE AFTER HIS ISRAELI VISIT. MUCH OF THE SPEECH, MUBARAK CLAIMED, IS BUILT AROUND THE CONFERENCE THEME. HAD WE MADE SUCH A SUGGESTION YESTERDAY MORNING, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE US. BUT NOW, LESS THAN TWO HOURS BEFORE HIS SPEECH, HE COULD NOT REWRITE THE WHOLE SPEECH.

4. I REMINDED THE VP THAT WE HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IDEA UNTIL LAST NIGHT. IT HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED DURING WEDNESDAY'S MEETING. SUGGESTION HAD BEEN MADE AT THAT TIME SHIFT VINUE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE TO CAIRO AND I HAD CONVEYED OUR NEGATIVE REACTION LAST EVENING. AS I HAD SUGGESTED LAST, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF THE PRESIDENT COULD ALLOW US MORE TIME TO STUDY THE NEW IDEA BEFORE HE ANNOUNCES IT. MUBARAK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CONCEPT HAD NOT SURFACED UNTIL LAST NIGHT. HE CLAIMED THAT HE, TOO, HAD HEARD IT FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST NIGHT. SADAT HAD FORMULATED IT IN THE COURSE OF PRE-SECRET

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PARING HIS SPEECH.

5. I AGAIN EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE PRESIDENT CARTER ATTACHES TO DELAYING ANY SUCH ANNOUNCEMENT AND ASKED THAT HE ARRANGE FOR ME TO SPEAK WITH THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY ABOUT THE MATTER. MUBARAK HAD APPARENTLY HAD INSTRUCTIONS ON SUCH A REQUEST AND SAID THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT GET UP UNTIL 1000 OR LATER AND WILL THEN GO DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. HE DID NOT THINK A MEETING THIS MORNING WAS POSSIBLE. HE AGAIN ASSURED ME THAT HE HAD ACCURATELY CONVEYED OUR MESSAGE. SADAT, WHILE HE IS ANXIOUS TO ACCOMMODATE PRESIDENT CARTER, RELUCTANTLY HAD TO INFORM US THAT IT WOULD BE "VERY DIFFICULT" TO CHANGE THE SPEECH AT THIS LATE HOUR. THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE CONCEPT, AS SADAT VIEWS IT, IS WHAT IS NEEDED TO KEEP HIS SPEECH AND HOPED PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY HE FEELS IT NECESSARY TO DO SO. THE MOMENTUM GENERATED BY HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL MUST BE MAINTAINED AND VISIBLY SO. I AGAIN URGED MUBARAK TO SEEK TO PERSUADE SADAT TO RECONSIDER OR TO ARRANGE THAT I SEE THE PRESIDENT IN THE NEXT HOUR OR SO TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH HIM. MUBARAK REPEATED THAT HE DID NOT THINK THIS WAS

POSSIBLE AND WAS CLEARLY NOT KEEN ON BAITING SADAT ON
MATTER AGAIN.

6. IT IS NOW 1000 LOCAL. AM CONTINUING MY EFFORTS SPEAK TO
SADAT DIRECTLY, BUT SUSPECT ORDERS ARE OUT THAT HE IS NOT
TO BE DISTURBED UNTIL SPEECH TIME (1100 LOCAL). PRESIDENCY
IS NOT ANSWERING CALLS ON SECURE LINE.
EILTS UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

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